

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9975

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 3954

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RO, UR

SUBJ: ROMANIANS IRK SOVIETS BY TREATMENT OF BESSARABIA

1. LONDON TIMES AND WASHINGTON POST STORES HAVE ALREADY REPORTED SOVIET DISPLEASURE OVER IMPLICATION IN ROMANIAN BROCHURES DISTRIBUTED TO DELEGATES TO WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE THAT BESSARABIA (SOVIET MOLDAVIA) OUGHT STILL TO BE ROMANIAN.

2. IN FACT, TWO WPC BROCHURES NOW AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY -- ONE A GENERAL HANDOUT, THE OTHER A MORE SPECIALIZED HISTORY PAMPHLET -- FOLLOW USUAL ROMANIAN TRICK OF INSERTING COLORLESS, UNEXCEPTIONABLE STATEMENT ABOUT 1940 TRANSFER OF BESSARABIA AND NORTHERN BUKOVINA TO USSR AMIDST RECITAL OF MAJOR ROMANIAN AND EUROPEAN DISASTERS OF THAT YEAR, WHEN ROMANIA WAS "ALONE" AND "WITHOUT SUPPORT FROM ANYWHERE." CONTEXT THUS IMPLIES
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THAT BESSARABIA AND BUKOVINA WERE CEDED UNDER DURESS

(HENCE ILLEGALLY) TO USSR AND THAT SOVIETS JOINED NAZIS IN ROMANIA'S HUMILIATION. ONE BROCHURE NOTES CESSION WAS AT SOVIET "DEMAND", AND BOTH LUMP EVENT ALONG WITH POLAND'S "DISMEMBERMENT," "WORSENING" ROMANIAN SITUATION, FRANCE'S CAPITULATION, UPSURGE OF PRO-FASCIST GROUPS IN ROMANIA, UK DEFEATS, TRUNCATION OF ROMANIAN TRANSYLVANIA BY VIENNA DICTAT, AND LOSS OF SOUTHERN DOBROGEA TO BULGARIA. BROCHURES DESCRIBE BESSARABIA IN 1918 AS "UNIFYING" WITH ROMANIA AS PART OF "COMPLETION OF FORMATION OF UNITARY ROMANIAN NATIONAL STATE" BUT IN 1940 AS "BECOMING PART OF" OR "ENTERING INTO" USSR.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THIS OBLIQUE ROMANIAN DEMURRER TO SOVIET POSSESSION OF LOST TERRITORIES IS SIMILAR TO USUAL FORMULATION IN SMALL-CIRCULATION HISTORY TEXTS OF RECENT YEARS, SOVIETS WERE CLEARLY PIQUED AT ITS BEING DELIBERATELY SPREAD AMONG HUNDREDS OF WPC DELEGATES IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES ON EVE OF GOR'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY. IT WAS IZVESTIYA'S PAKLIN WHO PURPOSEFULLY LEAKED ITEM TO POST AND TIMES CORRESPONDENTS, INVITING FORMER TO DINNER AND SHOWING HIM RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE VERSION ALLEGEDLY WITHOUT OBJECTIONABLE PHRASES. EMBASSY HAS NOW COMPARED ENGLISH, FRENCH AND RUSSIAN VERSIONS AND FINDS THEM IDENTICAL AS REGARDS BESSARABIA. AS OF AUGUST 29 PAKLIN AND ROMANIAN COUNTERPARTS SEEMED NONE TOO HAPPY ABOUT RESULTANT PUBLICITY, PAKLIN BEING PARTICULARLY CHASTENED AND ROMANIANS CURIOUS ABOUT WHO "SOVIET SOURCE" WAS. EPISODE ADDS TO PICTURE OF SOME MINOR SOVIET-ROMANIAN IRRITATION BEHIND WPC SCENCES, INCLUDING SOVIET DELEGATION'S DEMAND FOR SPECIAL "FRATERNAL" HOTEL PRICE AND OBJECTION TO PAYING GOING LUXURY RATES. ROMANIAN DELEGATION OFFICER REMARKED, "THEY TRY TO ACT LIKE LORDS, BUT DON'T WANT TO SPEND LIKE THEM."
BARNES

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